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Playoff spot secured

The Haliburton County Huskies are off to the playoffs! At their final home game of the regular reason, the team beat the Toronto Junior Canadiens 6-4 on Saturday, Mar. 2. See more photos on page 5. /TIM YANO Special to the *Echo*

No wish to discourage farmers' market, says Dysart mayor

JAMES MATTHEWS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The group representing the Haliburton County Farmers' Market presented a new proposal to Dysart council they hope will open their familiar venue to them this season.

Angel Taylor, the Haliburton County Farmers' Market Association's secretary, and board member Mike Townsend, who is also a market vendor, discussed a proposal with township council Feb. 27 that they hope will open Head Lake Park as a continued marketplace.

"Getting this settled now is really urgent," Taylor said, and added that the market application deadline has been put off for a month.

The possibility of the market returning to Head Lake Park in 2024 has been in doubt since Dysart council posed new terms of use in November 2023 that were to protect the municipality from paying for park repairs and to assuage liability concerns.

To cover alleged property damage at the park, council proposed a $1,000 fee for each month July to September, the peak months. A $700 fee would be applied for other months.

The most recent offer by council was that the market could return to the park in 2025 and that each vendor pony up $5 to the township each market day.

In a Feb. 5 letter to township council, Taylor said the association's counter-offer achieves a workable compromise. Further, the group suggested a committee be formed that consists of farmers' market association members and municipal parks and recreation staff.

The committee will work toward a protocol for safe and careful park usage by vendors and a methodology to fairly determine whether the market damaged the park, as has been alleged.

Taylor also suggested that the association can help support park improvements that adhere to a Head Lake Park Master Plan, provided there's assurance of uninterrupted park use for the duration of the market season.

see COUNCIL page 2

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Council sticks to daily vendor fee

from page 1

As for the counter-offer, the recommended option is that council waive all fees for the 2024 season.

"This grace period will allow council to approve and implement a fee structure for the future use of HLP that treats all organizations fairly and transparently," Taylor said in her letter to council.

"This also gives the HCFMA the opportunity to secure finances associated with proposed park fees through fundraising opportunities, community sponsorship, and public donations."

Barrie Martin, the co-chairperson of Harvest Haliburton, said in a letter of support for the association's proposal that the market has thrived at Head Lake Park for 11 years. It has become an integral part of the community in that time.

"The success of the market at this location is evident in the substantial attendance, with close to 20,000 visitors enjoying the market annually," Martin said. "The positive impact of the market has extended beyond the vendors to benefit the local community."

That community benefit is seen in Haliburton's vibrant economic health, he said.

"It is crucial to recognize that supporting the farmers' market is not only about sustaining a beloved community event, but also about nurturing and encouraging our fragile local agriculture," he said. "The market at Head Lake Park has become a vital source of income for many vendors."

Taylor said the ongoing delay has been discouraging to vendors.

The local group took a look at farmers' markets in other central and southern Ontario locations. Of the 18 markets contacted, 15 get use of their location free of charge from their respective municipality and six get additional support in the form of security, use of staff, trash pick-up, and even funding in some instances.

Those asked to pay a fee were indoor markets and the charges were "considerably lower" than what's proposed by Dysart, Taylor said.

Townsend said the group would like to get the issue settled as soon as possible in order to get the season in motion.

Mayor Murray Fearrey said there was never any intent to discourage holding the farmers' market.

"We didn't think $5 (a day) was going to cause such a storm," Fearrey said.

"As far as I'm concerned, this thing got right off the rails with lack of communication and then people started trying to negotiate (and) almost embarrass, I feel, our council in the newspapers," Deputy Mayor Walt McKechnie said. "We had no intentions at all of ever shutting the market down."

He said council is supportive of the farmers' market but, ultimately, the taxpayers are first priority.

Councillor Pat Casey said consensus among various social groups in Dysart is that $5 a day isn't a deal-breaker.

Fearrey said the $5 is unconditional and it would be put into a park fund. Most events at the park are a matter of days. The market is there a whole season. And the township has never taken the $400 deposit for damages.

"I think we've been more than fair," he said, and added that other park events will be looked at in terms of deposit fees.

Taylor said the association will have confer and return to council.

In the end, council reaffirmed its green light for the market in 2024 provided each vendor pay $5 per market day.

Writing STR bylaw needs wider collaboration, says cottage owner

JAMES MATTHEWS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

A Dysart area property owner questioned the lack of public consultation on the specifics of the latest draft of a short-term rental bylaw.

Bryan Stewart, a Kennisis Lake cottage owner, told township council when it met Feb. 27 that a bylaw as important as one that will regulate short-term rental (STR) properties needs public input from people both for and against the legislation.

He said he supports a fair and balanced short-term rental bylaw and he called on officials to convene a public meeting with all stakeholders and to get input on the bylaw's final draft from residents, STR operators, and local businesses.

"Ensure all voices can participate, are heard, and considered, demonstrating a commitment to transparency and community engagement," Stewart said. "It will help to focus the bylaw on key areas of importance and likely reveal areas of concern that may not have been anticipated."

Stewart said he rented his property for six weeks last year. Otherwise, he said, it's a family cottage that's used year-round.

He's written several letters over the last few months directed to Haliburton County and Dysart's township council. Those missives contained a number of questions and concern about the proposed STR regulations.

And, he said, changes to various drafts of the proposed bylaw have been welcomed and appreciated alternations.

"I believe that a bylaw is rooted in clear objectives backed by evidence and shaped through public consultation," Stewart said. "I believe that, by focusing on these areas, we can achieve a bylaw that not only addresses concerns but also respects the interests of all stakeholders involved."

Other neighbouring municipalities who looked into the issue in their jurisdictions have engaged stakeholder groups and held many more public meetings to solicit feedback.

"I encourage Haliburton (County) and Dysart to follow suit," he said.

Of particular interest to decision-makers should be the thoughts of the business community that relies on tourism dollars.

He said there are recreational facility owners, property managers, restaurant owners, suppliers, and people who have side hustles who have vested interests in the best STR bylaw being implemented in Haliburton County.

They depend on a healthy tourism economy supported by STR operators and their clientele.

"To my mind, these are important people that I would want to talk to, to understand the wider impact of this bylaw on the community," Stewart said.

As opposed to an adversarial relationship through regulation, he proposed the county, municipal councils, and STR property operators work together to improve that segment of the tourism industry.

"Imagine if we all worked together to a competitive advantage for Haliburton," he said.

Responsible STR hosts have acknowledged the presence "of bad actors" in the marketplace. Likewise, responsible hosts don't want their property damaged by rowdy renters and frown on their sites being party rentals.

"Yet the draft bylaw treats everyone the same," Stewart said. "If local officials collaborated with responsible cottage owners and hosts, I'm confident we could discover a more positive and productive pathway forward."

Mayor Murray Fearrey said councillors heard residents question for the last five or six years when something was going to be done to address the STR issue. It really escalated during the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdowns.

"I think to get everybody in the room together, you'll probably need the OPP there because there's that strong feelings, from what I'm hearing," Fearrey said. "I get six and eight, 10 emails a day and they're all over the place."

He said there doesn't seem to be a consensus on anything regarding STRs.

"Whatever bylaw gets passed, it's not going to be right the first time," he said. "We're going to have to amend it."

"I'm not denying that there are problems that need to be solved," Stewart said. "What I'm saying is the approach to solve them could be a better one."

Two individuals charged for disturbance in Minden

The Haliburton Highlands Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) has charged two individuals in relation to an assault and robbery that occurred earlier this month.

On February 9, 2024, shortly after 4:30 a.m., members of the Haliburton Highlands Detachment responded to an assault and robbery with a weapon on Parkside Street in Minden. The victim was transported to a hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

A thorough investigation was conducted by the Haliburton Highlands OPP Crime Unit.

As a result of the investigation a 44-year-old of Minden Hills has been charged with:

· Aggravated assault
· Robbery using firearm
· Possession of a weapon
· Possession of a weapon while prohibited

A 28-year-old of Minden Hills has been charged with:

· Aggravated assault
· Robbery using firearm
· Possession of a weapon
· Fail to comply release order
· Possession of a firearm while prohibited

Both were held for a bail hearing.

The investigation is ongoing.

Investigators are asking that anyone with any information and have not spoken to police to contact Haliburton Highlands OPP at 705-286-1431 or the OPP Provincial Communications Centre at 1-888-310-1122.

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Area public health boards petition province for merger

JAMES MATTHEWS
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Given their history collaborating, it only makes sense for the local and Peterborough health boards to merge.

The Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit (HKPR) and Peterborough Public Health (PPH) announced Feb. 28 that their respective health boards have given the nod to a voluntary merger.

As part of the process to bring the proposed merger to fruition, both boards will submit a joint voluntary merger application to the provincial government by April 2.

The application will spell out how a proposed merger would benefit the communities they serve, while supporting outcomes and priorities identified for public health by the Ministry of Health.

Mergers of public health units require provincial legislative change and, as such, this will not be definitive until the province has approved this and commits adequate funding for its success later in the year.

Both PPH and HKPR District Health Unit will continue to operate independently during the provincial review period.

The Ministry of Health announced in August 2023 plans to strengthen the public health sector by offering one-time funding, resources, and supports to public health agencies that decide to voluntarily merge by Jan. 1, 2025.

And that got the wheels turning on an effort to explore the effects of a merger of neighbouring boards.

In November 2023, a Joint Board Merger Exploration Working Group was established with representatives from both health units and external consulting firm Sense & Nous to prepare a comprehensive feasibility assessment report.

Findings were recently presented to both health boards for consideration.

Both boards said in a joint press release that, throughout the process, it was identified that both the HKPR District Health Unit and PPH have an extensive history of collaboration and share similar geographic, demographic, health status and population characteristics.

Both organizations are dedicated to reducing health inequities and addressing the most pressing public health challenges faced by the urban, rural, and Indigenous communities that they serve, according to the press release.

During their board meeting on Feb. 15, HKPR decided to proceed with a proposal to voluntary merge with the Peterborough crowd.

"We have been diligent in the timeframe provided to review and consider all possible outcomes and impacts of a voluntary merger," said David Marshall, chairperson of the HKPR board.

"Ultimately, we agreed that by merging with Peterborough Public Health we can strengthen our capacity to deliver exceptional public health programs and services and to better respond to the unique needs of our small urban and rural communities."

PPH's board decided during its Feb. 21 meeting to proceed with a proposal to voluntary merger with HKPR.

"Over the past several months, we have carefully examined how a merger can strengthen the services that we provide to our communities," said Joy Lachica, the Peterborough board's chairperson.

"This process revealed that joining together offers us the best pathway possible to protect and promote public health and keep our residents healthy. We are thrilled to start this journey together."

HCSA closes all trails for the season

THOMAS SMITH
Staff Reporter

The Haliburton County Snowmobile Association has wrapped up their season. It lasted for eight weeks.

"We've been depressed," said Paul Wilson, treasurer of the Haliburton County Snowmobile Association (HCSA).

"It's a beautiful day today at the HCSA," said Neil Vanderstoop. "The sun is shining but the trails are closed."

Historically, the shortest season they have ever had was in the 70s, said Vanderstoop.

After sending Doug Ford a trail guide, they recently received a thank you letter from the Premier of Ontario.

"The trails were nice for riding, but we kept it yellow, just in case," said Vanderstoop."

Yellow meant that the trails were rideable with caution, due to the unpredictable weather and changing conditions.

The HCSA was one of many snowmobiling associations that have had difficulties with maintaining and opening trails this year.

While some trails only opened for one week this season, some in southern Ontario never opened at all, said Vanderstoop.

All of their groomers are now in the shop, waiting to get summarised.

"Groomers are still ready," said Vanderstoop stoically.

"We'd have to be reopening trails from scratch," said Wilson.

Last year, the HCSA opened their trails on Dec. 20 and closed them on Mar. 16. This year's snowmobiling season for the HCSA was four weeks shorter than last year's. It is highly unlikely that the trails will reopen before the spring thaw, they said.

"We were only able to groom half of what our budget allowed," explained Wilson.

The HCSA has five groomers on standby to service their trails. A dedicated fleet of 16 groomers and three volunteers joined their efforts this season.

Groomers work in the evenings. Starting around 4 p.m., their shifts take them as late as 2 a.m.

"I had a 13.5 hour shift doing the northern part," said Wilson.

Lots of drifting snow and heavy storm cycles contribute to long hours grooming.

"It's a learned art," Vanderstoop added.

While many lakes were cleared for use this year, Halls Lake was never staked.

"We didn't have the confidence in it," said Vanderstoop. "We can't stake a lake until it has eight inches of clear, solid ice."

Lakes are still safe to unstake them at the end of the season, and the HCSA has strict parameters regarding safety.

"No one's happy," said Vanderstoop. "I've gone around to different businesses and I've done everything I can. It's tough for everybody."

Map sales, trail passes, and advertising numbers were quite good this year, regardless of the weather, said Vanderstoop.

While the numbers don't quite meet the numbers during the COVID-19 pandemic, trail passes were likely 10 per cent higher than pre-pandemic numbers, says Vanderstoop.

"We have not stopped," assured Vanderstoop. "There's turnover, paperwork that needs to be done, trails to look after, culverts, and bridges, and trails to be fixed."

To trail pass buyers and businesses, we are not going to let them down, said Vanderstoop. "We're going to forge ahead."

"We would like to thank our landowners, our volunteers, and our advertisers," said Vanderstoop. "Without them, nothing would happen. Especially without the landowners, nothing would happen."

Throughout the year, the HCSA is looking forward to participating in events such as the Stanhope Airport Fly-In.

Although a date has not been set for the AGM in April, everyone is welcome to attend, volunteer with the HCSA and enquire about job opportunities.

"There's still lots happening, we don't get to stop," said Vanderstoop.

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Seniors day is the last Thursday of each month.

‘Right back where we started from’

The Huskies are currently fourth out of 12 in the Ontario Junior Hockey League Eastern Division, earning them a spot in playoffs. The boys in blue will be up against the Cobourg Cougars in fifth place in the division.

The team celebrated their final game of the regular season by welcoming their billet families to the ice for recognition before their game against the Toronto Junior Canadiens on Saturday, Mar. 2.

With a final score of 6-4 for the Huskies, the team left the home ice with a proud crowd. They also won their Sunday game in Niagara 2-1 against the Niagara Falls Canucks to end the regular season with a howl.

Photos are from Saturday’s home game at the SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena. /TIM YANO Special to the *Echo*

Zagorsky becomes Chief Warrant Officer for 1129

VIVIAN COLLINGS
Editor

Last year, it was winning the Athlete of the Year award at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School, this year, it's a promotion to Chief Warrant Officer with the 1129 Haliburton Army Cadets for a local HHSS graduate.

When 18-year-old Ivan Zagorsky has a goal in mind, he sees it through until the end.

When he began the Cadet program at age 12 while living in Windsor, he immediately knew he wanted to have a leadership role someday.

His family moved to Haliburton in 2021, and he jumped at the opportunity to continue his career.

"When we moved up here, we were new to the area and weren't sure how to get involved or what was around. I heard some of the newer friends I was making talk about being in Army Cadets. I decided to check into it, went in one night, and have been going back ever since then," Zagorsky said.

The decision to start at 12-years-old was a because of a longstanding interest in military and policing.

"Policing's been one of my dream jobs that I've been wanting to do, so I thought this would be a good thing to not only put on my resume but to also gain life skills in general," he said.

Zagorsky will turn 19 on December 19.

"I'll be continuing there right until then."

He said being CWO comes with a lot of responsibility, but peer support is critical to the role.

"You have peers that are one rank under you that are there to help you. Because our corps is still full of younger cadets, my duties are to make sure all of us as a corps look good when it comes to uniforms and drill, and I also make sure our behaviour is good too, especially when we are out in the community representing Army Cadets," he said.

"Being a chief, you have a lot of responsibilities and you have to make sure every cadet is meeting the standards and expectations."

When he began Army Cadets in Windsor six years ago, there was one person in particular that lit the fire in him to work his way up.

"I didn't have a lot of knowledge about the program because my family had just moved from Mexico in 2013. When I started, our chief at the time was such a good leader. He was the reason why I continued with it. He inspired me, and I thought, 'I want to be like him one day and see where it takes me,'" he said.

He hopes to be that role model to all of the younger cadets and someone they can look up to.

"Leadership is one of the most important aspects of the cadet program. When we start at 12, that's what a lot of us strive for. We look up to the top ranks," he said.

Although the three-year pandemic moved Cadets online, the corps is now finding new ways to connect, and is growing.

"When I first started in Haliburton, we only had 10 or 12 kids, and now we have almost 30 coming out every night," Zagorsky said.

He explained that each Tuesday, the corps meets at the Haliburton Legion for their training.

Ivan Zagorsky receives his promotion to Chief Warrant Officer from 1129 Haliburton Army Cadets Commanding Officer Corina Hall-Mansfield on Tuesday, Feb. 20 at the Haliburton Legion. /Photo submitted

"We have three periods in our night. Our first is usually some kind of physical training or game that involves exercising. We try to do something new every week. For the second and third period, we usually do lessons. The corps is divided into different star levels starting from beginner to experienced," he said.

Those ranked just below him instruct the younger groups.

"I let them know what they'll be teaching, they get prepped for it, and then they teach their lessons. A lot of the lessons are about navigation, dress and deportment, things like that."

The corps just had their winter field training exercise last weekend.

There is also the opportunity for cadets to apply to attend summer camp each summer. Zagorsky attended basic fitness and sports camp at Blackdown on Base Borden in 2019 for three weeks.

"It was such a great experience. It was so fun, and every cadet should go to camp if they get the opportunity, and every teenager should consider joining cadets," he said. "All the time I've spent after work and after school, it feels good to start a project and see it all the way through."

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Truth-mongering

MY FAMILY and I always watched the news.

Six o'clock came and dinner was on the table, butts were in seats, and the daily news was on the TV.

Our focus went back and forth between the semi-local happenings on the screen, taking bites from our meal, and sharing parts of our day with each other.

It was always the norm for me.

I knew it was time to put my Barbies away when I heard the opening jingle. It still lives rent-free in my head.

Because it was part of our daily experience for so many years of dinners at home, I had certainly never considered what they were telling me might be exaggerated for dramatic effect when I was a kid.

The first time I clearly saw the practice was when that same news station had aired coverage of something in Haliburton County last year.

I had just written a story about that exact subject.

I thought I knew most of the ins and outs and had considered things from many points of view.

In this job, I'm always reminded of a phrase a family member in law enforcement used to say, "The truth is somewhere in the middle."

Everyone has a reason for thinking the way they do. Everyone should have the chance to express that when it won't harm anyone else.

The thing about being human is that emotions are almost always involved, which can create emphasis on certain points and not others. Again, the truth is in the middle.

Obviously, it's difficult to always come across as unbiased, but we do our best when a story warrants that.

So back to that event on the news…

I remember my heart racing as soon as I heard the way they told it.

It was clear from the headline alone that one point of view was being favoured.

Of course, it was the one that would generate the most attention and unfortunately evoke a negative reaction.

That's what gets views. It's also what sells papers.

They had left out so many facts and figures in favour of the bad and ugly. They only had 60 seconds, after all.

I often feel we're no different than the spectators in the ancient Colosseum.

I bring this up now because of some recent happenings on Facebook.

Facebook is today's version of a Roman Amphitheatre. It's just like a 60 second news clip.

We see one perspective of a story and the most disturbing details before it immediately jumps to the next thing.

With heightened stress levels as a result, we judge, make conclusions, and see only what's put in front of us.

Bill C-18 isn't helping.

The average Canadian spends two hours on social media a day, and for the past year, they haven't been able to access legitimate news stories from there.

All we get are bits and pieces on Facebook and Instagram.

So what do we do? It'll take a conscious, active effort to not take everything we see on social media at face-value.

There is always a person behind a post.

We have to do everything we can to see past the small snippets and learn more about the big picture, in every situation.

vivian collings

Editorial

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The last remaining icicles cling to the side of Ritchie Falls. /THOMAS SMITH Staff

Amazing O

This article comes from YMCA Camp Wanakita where I am at the 13th Haliburton County Winter Folk Camp.

The last time I was here at this event was two weekends before the world shut down for COVID in 2020.

To say that people are happy to be back here is an understatement. The event is sold out with 80 participants, 20 volunteers and staff and more people from the county attending concerts in the evenings.

There are six instructors teaching six different "streams" or classes, and they are all so talented. I was sitting in the gospel circle this morning singing with 100 people. We sang everything from *You've Got a Friend*, to *Swing Low Sweet Chariot* and *If I had a Hammer.*

It was an hour of pure joy, great harmonies and shared leadership. At one point we sang *Amazing Grace,* and the singing was so beautiful it brought tears to my eyes.

I was sitting in the song circle beside my roommate "O" who is a student from the Haliburton Highlands Secondary School. The folk society always sponsors one or two students from our local High School to attend the weekend.

"O" was selected and joined the choir "stream" which I was also in. I am volunteering for the event teaching yoga and helping out behind the scenes and participating in the choir.

"O" and I were assigned to be roommates, and although I have known her mother and of "O" for many years, we didn't really know each other.

I'm sure she was wondering who the heck I was as she moved into our room.

And I am quite sure it would have been intimidating for her as she looked around the dining room at the 100 adults and wondered how the weekend would unfold and how she would fit in.

As I sang *Amazing Grace,* I couldn't help but think that "O" is grace in action.

She is kind, thoughtful, a great storyteller, a good listener and so easy going.

She is open to learning and easily joins in.

She fit in right away and has had a really fun weekend. And she has been such a gift to me.

It is so rejuvenating to be around a young person and to hear the stories of their life, their dreams and ambitions and their interests.

And she listened to my stories about my life. If you read my articles regularly you know that my parents live with my husband and I, and that comes with its gifts and challenges for all of us.

As a caregiver, one thing I know for certain is that I have to take really good care of myself so that I can show up in my life and be my best self.

It is not always easy. Being here at this folk camp has filled my heart in so many ways.

My new friend "O" may never know how her bright spirit and welcoming energy made my whole weekend.

But it did. And I will take some of her grace home with me to share with my family. Thank you Haliburton Folk Society and "O."

It takes a community to support each other!

lynda shadbolt

Tales from the great

Green meadow

points of view

Playing chicken

steve galea

Loon Tales

I confess I was feeling a little disappointed the other day at the dinner table when Jenn quickly dispelled my belief that I was finally experiencing my long-awaited growth spurt.

"Relax" she said, "you're not getting any bigger. That's a Cornish hen!"

She meant no harm.

Still, I know what you are thinking. She didn't have to tell me that.

I mean, I would have probably come to that conclusion eventually on my own time – most likely when I placed a little drumstick beside one of the Brussels sprouts.

Sure, I might have deluded myself further by convincing myself that the Brussel sprout was a cabbage, but eventually, I would have realized that the plate still appeared to be the same size and that I was, in fact, dealing with undersized food.

I am nothing if not a man of science.

Yet, I still think it is fair to ask: how did I, an intelligent man of several letters, get duped so easily?

Well, the short answer, is that this was the first time I ever had a Cornish hen.

That's how.

When I was young, no one ever talked about Cornish hens either. It was not like today.

Am I going to make a big deal out of this? Of course not.

It was an honest mistake. There is plenty of blame to go around.

For my part, I saw a ¾-pound Cornish hen and thought it was a three-pound roasting chicken.

This threw off my perspective and deceived me into thinking I had suddenly grown to be about seven-foot-three.

I'm sure it happens to people my size countless times every year.

Jenn is not fully to blame either. She naturally assumed that I was worldly and knew something of the diminutive bird.

Also, she is of normal height and, despite living with me, remains woefully unaware of the challenges my people face (she refuses to get rid of the top shelves).

What scares me is that, though the disaster was averted, it could have been so much worse.

I mean what if Jenn hadn't told me? Honestly, I was about to phone my buddy Tom to challenge him to a one-on-one game of basketball for money. I could have lost the house.

So who is to blame then?

Well, I think it is time we placed it squarely where it is deserved – at the feet of the international Cornish hen conglomerates.

They knew. You can't tell me otherwise.

I therefore must assume that they could care less about us, the little people – which is weird because you'd think they would market directly to us.

Otherwise, they would put a label on every Cornish hen, thereby letting us know that this bird is not to be confused with a three-pound roasting bird.

Again, I'm not about to make a big deal of this.

Besides, it's not about me. I'm old now and have recently learned that I'm on the downward slope of my height.

I have reached the apex. From here on in, Cornish hens will look bigger every year.

No, this is about future generations of short people.

It's a call out to society to educate them about the perils of Cornish hens. Or better yet just feed them regular chickens.

Let's be honest. They taste the same anyhow.

Yes, that's it.

No fowl. No harm.

pic *of the* past

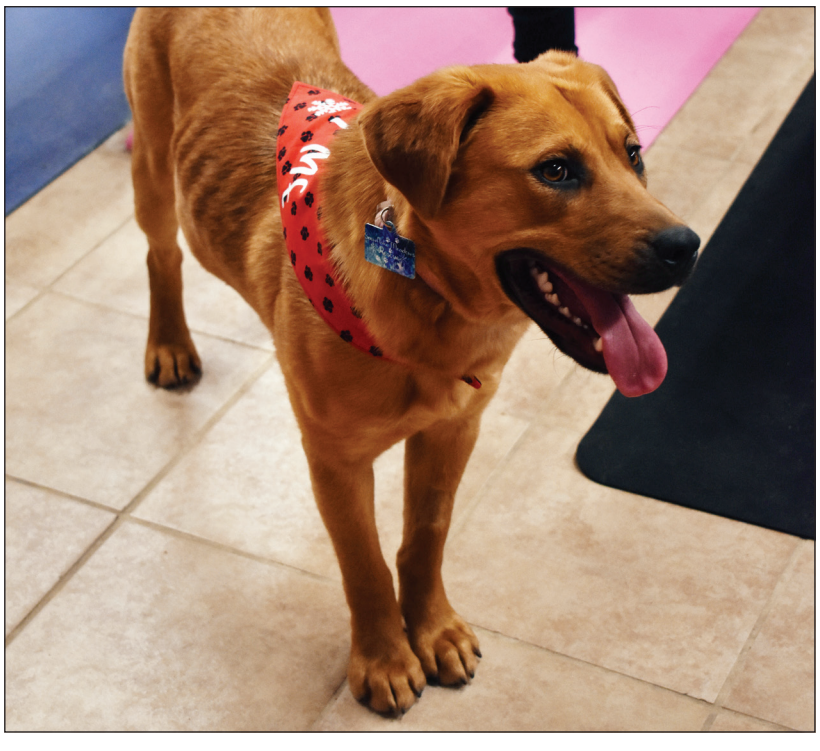
PICTURED IS Nels Stevens' General Store in West Guilford. Nels opened his store in 1921. He ran the store until his death in 1943.
The store is still standing and is now a private home. /FILE

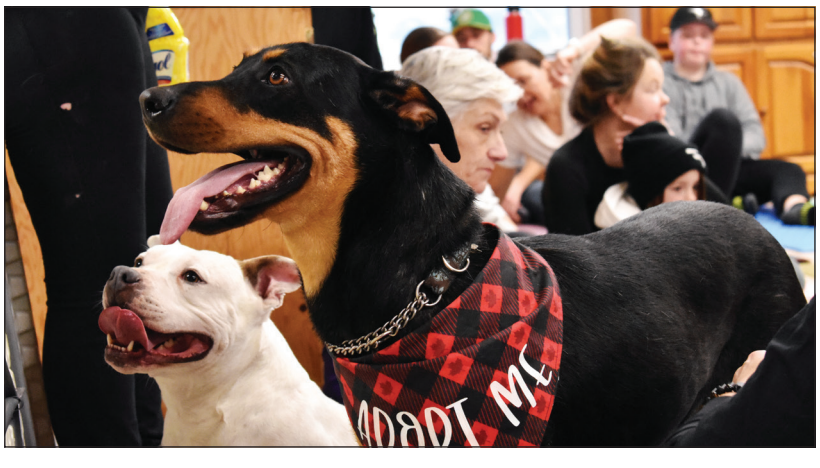
It's time for our Ice Out Contest!

When do you think the ice will completely melt off of Head Lake in Haliburton? Send in the date and time of your guess with your name and contact information to vivian@haliburtonpress.com or call 705-457-1037. The closest guess will win a free year subscription to the *Echo*.

Downward Dog

The Fish Hatchery was packed with people and pups participating in Snowflake Meadows Rescue's Puppy Yoga on Saturday, Mar. 2. The partnership betweeen Harmony Yoga and Snowflake Meadows was a fundraiser for sheltering, feeding, adoption, veterinary care, and cleaning supply funds, and $1,615 was raised from the event. For adoption information, contact snowflakemeadowrescue@gmail.com or call 289-338-3429. /VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff





Fulfilling graduation dreams

VIVIAN COLLINGS
Editor

Jennifer Abbott has been helping make the dreams of graduates come true for the past 11 years.

Make Dreams Come True is a not-for-profit local organization that collects donated dresses or suits, shoes, jewelry, and other items to give back to grads free of charge.

This ensures graduates of any age can enjoy their special day without worrying about the cost.

Last year, she helped 15 kids fulfill their prom and grad visions.

"It's really a community effort and is something that's truly needed here because of rising prices," Abbott said.

The idea came from one local woman receiving a donated dress 11 years ago.

"After that, we knew there was a greater need. We knew there would be so many more people benefiting from something like this," she said. "I thought it was a fabulous idea."

It began with a small storefront space in Castle Antiques in downtown Haliburton.

"But then COVID hit, so I keep all of the items in my home," Abbott explained.

When someone is in need of a suit or dress, they message Abbott directly, and she gets to work.

"If they have a picture of the style and colour they're looking for, I go through all my inventory, and then I will put together around five different options, and package it all up to send home with them. That way, they can try everything on in their own homes and decide," Abbott said.

Whatever doesn't get chosen gets brought back for someone else to enjoy in the future.

"Whenever I find out what colour and style they choose, that's when I get to make up a gift bag. They get nail polish, makeup, jewelry, and shoes if they need them," she said.

Over the years, Make Dreams come true has teamed up with local businesses who provide their services free of charge to those who receive a suit or dress.

"Salons donate time for hairstyles, cuts, and manicures or pedicures, and Chantel Smith gives the graduate and their family a free mini photo session."

Chantel Smith Photography offers mini photoshoot sessions for each person helped by Make Dreams Come True in their new dress or suit. /Photos by Chantel Smith

Abbott is now accepting donations for dresses, suits, shoes, and new makeup and hair products.

She can be reached by phone or text at 705-286-0906 for the drop-off location.

If anything gets donated that she can't use, she donates back to local organizations.

"We just want to capture the memories," Abbott said. "It feels good to be able to help as many people as I can."

Treats for turtles

The Minden Animal Hospital had a bake sale on Wed. Feb. 28th to support the Turtle Guardian's turtle tunnel and incubator projects. /THOMAS SMITH Staff

Those Other movies
MOVIE NIGHTS
Those Other movies
Thursday, March 14 - The Persian Version
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$10 cash only
4:15 and 7:15 pm Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion.
DOC(K) Day: April 13 - passes available $30
705-457-0428 www.ThoseOtherMovies.com

The Haliburton BIA is ready for a fresh, new year

VIVIAN COLLINGS
Editor

Brandon Nimigon joined the Haliburton Business Improvement Area (BIA) board in 2016 with the desire to see downtown grow and flourish.

After eight years of participating in decisions, helping hang flowers, put up fall decorations, and plan events, he knew it was time to step into a bigger role.

He was nominated by 2023 president David Zilstra to become the BIA president for 2024 at their AGM on Feb. 15.

"It seems like a good fit for me right now to take on a leadership role. I think we do a lot of great things for the town with beautification, events, and bringing people downtown, and I'm always happy to help out," Nimigon said.

As owner and broker of record at Century 21 Granite Group realty, he's excited to lend expertise in running an organization in the place he'll always call home.

"When my partner and myself moved back, we knew this would be our home. This was where I wanted to raise my family, have my business, and if there's any way I can help the downtown grow while I'm here, that's what I wanted to do. And this seemed like the right group to do that with," Nimigon said.

The BIA also welcomed four new members to their executive: Gillian King, Gillian Taylor, Jappan Pandya, and Heather Kennedy.

Remaining members are Nimigon, Nicole Baumgartner-Spooner, David Zilstra, and Clay Glecoff with councillor Pat Casey as Dysart council's representative and Brianna Elder as administrator.

"It's nice to have some fresh minds and a good mixture of the downtown community. We have lots of different mindsets which will be great to represent the BIA as a whole," Nimigon said. "We have a great group of executives. We all get along well and do a lot of great things."

The BIA has some exciting things in the works for the upcoming year.

"Our rebranding is the biggest thing, making our communication with everyone in Haliburton County a little easier. Hopefully within the next two months we should be close to wrapping it up," he said.

The BIA looks forward to their signature events like Ladies' Shopping Night, Midnight Madness, and Buy in and Win.

"Another big thing is beautification, of course, and just making it bigger and better and getting more of our members involved," Nimigon said. "We have this vibrant downtown cottage area. It's a great thing to be part of and a great thing to see. The fact that I get to help bring it to life is amazing."

People line up to get their hands on free banana splits from the Haliburton Echo during last year's Midnight Madness event hosted by the Haliburton BIA. /FILE

ADVERTORIAL

Patrick Senior, Gord Schakelaar and Nathan Jenner

With a Wealth of Knowledge Comes Confident Insights and Strategy

On February 1st, 2024, Patrick Senior, Financial Advisor, joined Assante Financial Management Ltd. and has joined alongside Gord Schakelaar, Senior Financial Planning Advisor, and Nathan Jenner, Financial Advisor.

At the core of Patrick's professional mission lies a deep-seated dedication to fostering genuine connections, nurturing trust, and leveraging expertise to empower clients on their financial journeys. As a seasoned financial advisor with over ten years of experience in banking, insurance, mortgage advising, small business credit planning, and investing, he brings a wealth of experience and knowledge, particularly in retirement planning and the nuanced art of decumulating retirement assets.

Patrick's mission is to establish authentic relationships built on trust and respect and provide clients with the insights and strategies needed to navigate retirement planning, reach their goals, and decumulate assets confidently.

Additionally, he seeks to build enduring relationships beyond financial strategies by prioritizing transparent communication and collaboration. Values that chart a course toward financial freedom, security, and fulfillment–grounded in trust, integrity, and a commitment to achieving client goals and aspirations.

With a firm belief in the transformative power of trust and relationship-building, Patrick is honoured to serve as atrusted advisor and partner as clients navigate the complexities of retirement planning and beyond. Together, clients can transform dreams into legacies that endure for generations. He looks forward to continuing to offer wealth management services throughout the Huntsville region.

Patrick Senior, Financial Advisor at Assante Financial Management Ltd.
Email: psenior@assante.com C: 226-228-4609 O: 705-789-7940
395 Centre Street North - Suite #300 Huntsville ON P1H 2P9

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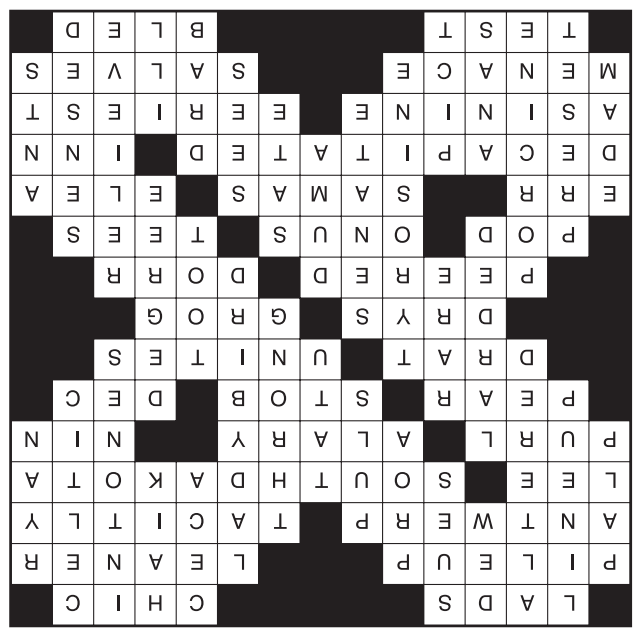


Free income tax clinics remove barriers in community

THOMAS SMITH
Staff Reporter

Central Food Network knows that filing your taxes can be a scary, complicated, and stressful process. In collaboration with the Canadian Revenue Agency, free income tax clinics will be offered in Wilberforce, Minden, and Haliburton. A growing team of seven volunteers are excited to help the community this tax season.

"This program is a great way for someone who is intimidated by the process and to ensure their taxes are done correctly," said Lindsay Hobbs, Income Tax Clinic Coordinator.

"Tax filing means a lot more than having to pay interest or get refunds."

Not filing your taxes can cut off crucial subsidies. Canada child benefits,GST/HST rebates, guaranteed income supplement for low income seniors, and rent geared to income housing subsidies need to know your tax information to apply and receive benefits, says Hobbs.

"It's helpful for seniors, housing insecure, new Canadians, people with disabilities, seniors, and youth," explained Hobbs. "Those that are not the best served by the system. We hope to remove these barriers."

These free income tax return clinics start on Feb. 29 and will be offered by appointment every Thursday in Wilberforce at the Lloyd Watson Community Centre. Clinics will alternate each week and offer appointments in Minden at the Community Food Centre on Tuesdays and in Haliburton at the Youth Hub every Monday (with the exception of Mar. 4, when appointments will be held at the Legion).

Only those with a modest income may book an appointment. Those with incomes that primarily come from employment, pensions, disability benefits, and EI are welcomed to book an appointment. Complex tax situations include rental income, self employment, and foreign income.

Taxes are a gatekeeper to those that crucially need the funds to support themselves and survive, says Hobbs.

If you or someone you know would like to make an appointment with the free income tax clinic, call Rachel at 705-306-0565 or email rachel@centralfoodnetwork.org. You will be told what information you need to bring to your appointment and be matched with the perfect tax expert. At your appointment, a drink and snack will be served and their volunteer will work with you to ensure your taxes get filed correctly. The tax clinics have ensured welcoming and inclusive spaces to make the tax process as painless as possible.

Celebrating remarkable women

KATE BUTLER
Special to the Echo

Each year, International Women's Day is celebrated on March 8.

Its origins go back to the early 20th century and can be linked to the suffragette movement at the time, as well as the labour movements across Europe and North America during that era. In March of 1911, over one million men and women attended rallies across Denmark, Germany, Austria and Switzerland, calling for women's rights to vote, work, receive training and higher education and to hold public office.

Just a few years later, the date of March 8 was settled upon as International Women's Day, though it wasn't officially marked by the United Nations until 1975.

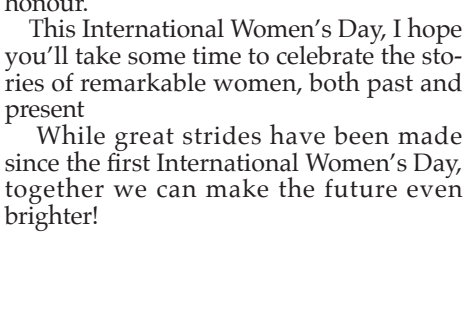
While International Women's Day is often celebrated with tales of those women seen as revolutionary trailblazers, I think it's also important to acknowledge the vast spectrum of women's stories and experiences that surround us, including all those women who, while remarkable, might never have considered themselves to be so.

When I think about Haliburton County's history, women's stories have sadly often been left in the background, perhaps due to the fact that, in the County's early days, it was almost exclusively men who were the business owners and holders of public office in the community.

Many settler women found themselves living lives that were probably quite different from what they had imagined. Many families had moved to the Highlands with dreams of farming, but then quickly discovered that they needed to diversify.

With men working in the lumber camps during the winter, the weight of running many households was carried completely by women during the harshest months of the year, yet these women persevered, while also looking after their families and each other. In some cases, due to changes of circumstance, these women found themselves having to think creatively to make ends meet, at a time when there were fewer career opportunities open to women.

Some made use of their skills as seamstresses, while others took in boarders. A number of young local women pursued careers in teaching, making an impact on their students which would last a lifetime.


International Women's Day
Let's forge a more inclusive world for women. Collectively, we can all #InspireInclusion.
March 8
www.internationalwomensday.com

Midwives and practical nurses may have seen themselves as simply helping their neighbours, but they were saving lives, as well as providing comfort and reassurance to women who knew that in an isolated rural community in the 1800s, childbirth came with few guarantees.

When we look through our own family trees, I'm sure we can each also find stories of remarkable women to celebrate.

I was just recently thinking about my great-great-grandfather's aunt. She may sound like a rather distant relation, but I think that her influence can still be felt today.

She took in and provided a home for my great-great-grandfather and for one of his cousins when they were both orphaned as children, providing stability for them at a time when their lives had been turned upside-down.

She and my great-great-grandfather seem to have stayed close as he grew up, and my great-great-grandparents even named their eldest daughter in his aunt's honour.

This International Women's Day, I hope you'll take some time to celebrate the stories of remarkable women, both past and present

While great strides have been made since the first International Women's Day, together we can make the future even brighter!

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
PROPOSED ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENT
TO ZONING BY-LAW 2005-120 OF THE
MUNICIPALITY OF DYSART ET AL

- **DATE:** **TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 2024**
- **TIME:** **9:05 AM**
- **LOCATION:** **TAKE NOTICE THAT THE PUBLIC MEETING FOR ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENT WILL TAKE PLACE IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS IN THE MUNICIPAL OFFICE 135 MAPLE AVENUE, HALIBURTON, ONTARIO AND IN ELECTRONIC FORMAT USING ZOOM**

Applications:

Lands of Smart and Smartfive Holdings Inc.
(File Nos.: D14-ZB-2023-011 and D14-ZB-2023-012)

Purpose and Effect: The proposed amending By-law would change the zoning on the following lands:

1077 Nels Trail:

- Severed Lot - From Rural Type 1L (RU1L) zone and Waterfront Residential Type 4L (WR4L) zone to Waterfront Residential Type 3L (WR3L) zone and Environmental Protection (EP) zone.
- Retained Lot – Rural Type 1L (RU1L) zone and Waterfront Residential Type 4L (WR4L) zone to Rural Type 1L (RU1L) zone, Waterfront Residential Type 4L-XX (WR4L-XX) exception zone and Environmental Protection (EP) zone.

Location: Part Lot 9, Parts 4 to 8, Concession 8, Plan 19R-3957 in the Geographic Township of Dudley, now in the Municipality of Dysart et al. (1077 Nels Trail)

Concurrent Application: The subject properties are a condition of concurrent application H-022/21 & H-023/21 which is an application for severance under the Planning Act RSO 1990, c.P.13.

1078 Nels Trail:

- Severed Lot - From Rural Type 1L (RU1L) zone and Waterfront Residential Type 4L (WR4L) zone to Waterfront Residential Type 3L (WR3L) zone and Environmental Protection (EP) zone.
- Retained Lot – Rural Type 1L (RU1L) zone and Waterfront Residential Type 4L (WR4L) zone to Rural Type 1L (RU1L) zone, Waterfront Residential Type 4L (WR4L) zone and Environmental Protection (EP) zone.

Location: Part Lots 8 and 9, Concession 8, Plan 19R-3957, Parts 1 to 3, Part 9, Plan 19R-3776 in the Geographic Township of Dudley, now in the Municipality of Dysart et al. (1078 Nels Trail)

Concurrent Applications: The subject property is a condition of concurrent application H-022/21, H023-21 & H-024-21 application for severance under the Planning Act RSO 1990, c.P.13.

For more information about electronic meetings and public participation in an electronic meeting, contact the Municipal Clerk at mbishop@dysartetal.ca.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS MATTER INCLUDING INFORMATION ABOUT APPEAL RIGHTS: Contact the Planning and Land Information Department by appointment during regular office hours (8:30 A.M-4:30 P.M, Monday to Friday), or by contacting Kris Orsan, Manager of Planning at korsan@dysartetal.ca.

Dated at the Township of Dysart, this 5th day of March 2024.

Kris Orsan, CPT,
Manager of Planning
Planning and Land Information
Municipality of Dysart et al
135 Maple Avenue, Haliburton, Ontario K0M 1S0
Phone: 705-457-1740 ext. 626
E-mail: korsan@dysartetal.ca

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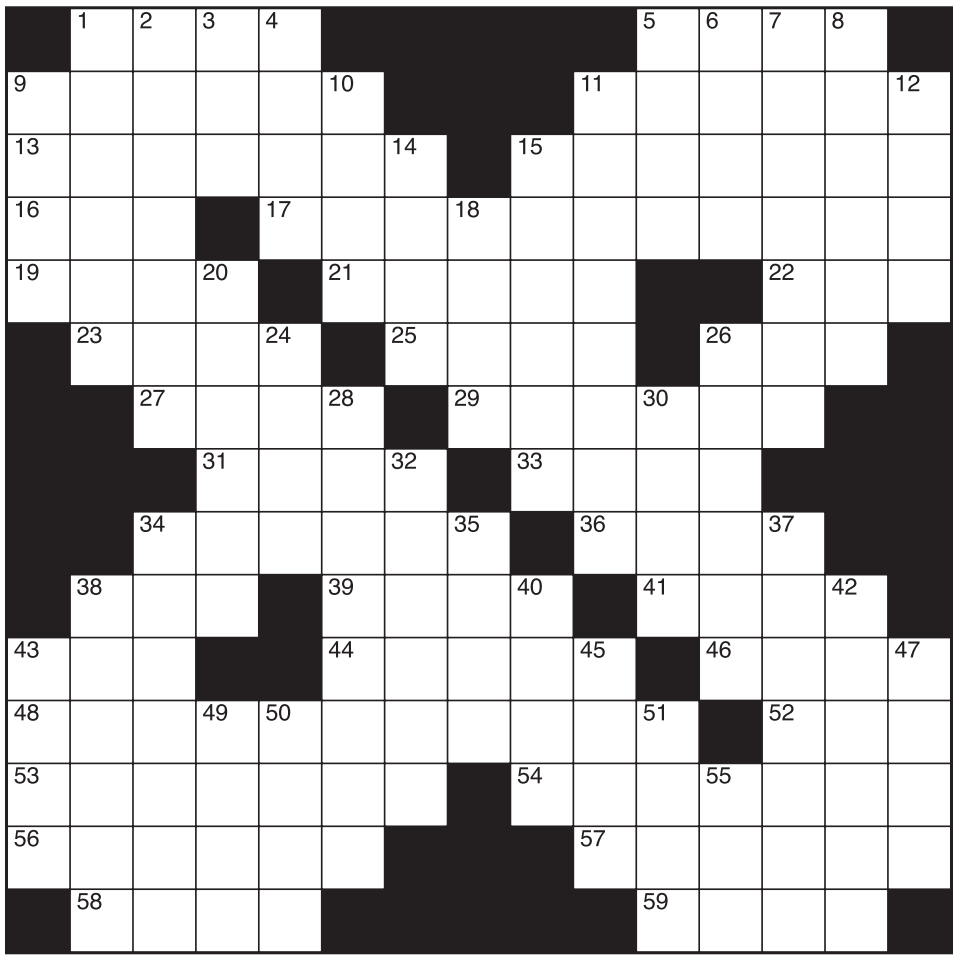


CLUES ACROSS

1. Chaps
5. Currently fashionable
9. Collision
11. More slim
13. European city
15. Implicitly
16. The side of something that is sheltered from the wind
17. The Mount Rushmore State
19. Gold or silver wire cord
21. Muscles along insects' diaphragm
22. Trent ReznorÕs band
23. Sweet juicy gritty-textured fruit
25. Broken branch
26. Indicates ten
27. Expression of annoyance
29. Brings together
31. Ancient city in Thrace
33. Sailors' spirit
34. Looked into
36. Muckraking woman journalist Rheta
38. A type of cast
39. One's responsibility
41. Where golfers begin
43. Make a mistake
44. Semitic Sun god
46. Ancient Italian-Greek colony
48. Beheaded
52. A place to stay
53. Unwise
54. Most supernatural
56. "Dennis" is a famous one
57. Ointments
58. Exam
59. Leaked blood

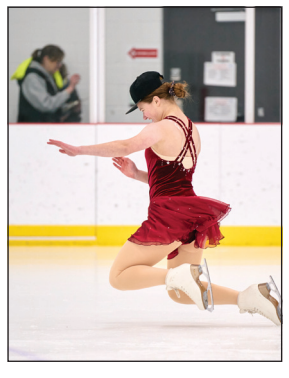
CLUES DOWN

1. Baseball managers assemble it
2. Revised
3. Mountain is a popular kind
4. Takes to civil court
5. Pouches
6. A type of veil
7. Chants
8. Boston hoopster
9. Elongated appendage
10. Sailboat
11. 2017 Oscar-winning film
12. Actor Gosling
14. Monetary units
15. Assembly
18. Russian pop duo
20. Embellished with expressions
24. Infrequent
26. Temperature unit
28. Hydrophilic amino acid
30. Honk
32. Legislative body
34. Swinish
35. Russian assembly
37. Take over for
38. Put in advance
40. Satisfy
42. Felt
43. Dutch cheese
45. Witnesses
47. Strong insects
49. Gasteyer and de Armas are two
50. Ancient people of Scotland
51. Cheerless
55. Sick

Answers on page 10

Stars on ice

Local figure skaters shone at Minden Skating Club's Jump, Spin and Glide into Spring Gala on Sunday, Mar. 3 at the SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena. The event was a showcase for all of the hard work the skaters put into this year's season. /TIM YANO Special to the *Echo*



It's hoppining, don'tcha know

Maybelle's

Fireside stories

DEAR READER,

Why if we aren't hopping into Spring, don'tcha know. That's right. First, we start saving daylight on March 10, (still don't know where we're going to put all of it). Then, we hop into the first day of spring on March 19, and with all that good momentum, we do an even bigger hop over a chunky patch of twelve days, and land smack dab in Easter on March 31, don'tcha know. Now, I don't know about you, but to 'ol Maybelle, there's a lot hoppining!

I have to admit, I'm not a hoppy camper (okay, Maybelle, enough with the play on words already) when the sun won't shine. And it sure has played hide and seek a lot this winter in Lake WhaddayathinkImean. So much so that my good friends: Beanpole Starkman, Vilma Yucch, Officer Stanley, Penelope McBottom, Sybil Beaucannon Hughes and Twindle Mumbly, and I are so pale, you'd be hard pressed to find us in the snow, don'tcha know. But, ah! when the sun does shimmy across our faces, and glistens like star dust on the fallen snow, my heart swells like a swollen melon and I whisper: Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

So, now with Daylight Savings Time on the horizon, oh how 'ol Maybelle is giddy with joy just thinking about it. Brighter, longer, warmer days. Sun splashing across everything like a painter and their muse using every colour on the palette. Birds singing. Snow melting. Spring thaw making space for all that is fresh and new and wonderfull filling our days again.

And Easter.

Why, did you know that the Easter bunny is not only a much-beloved character that brings joy and easter eggs to kiddies each year? The furry hopper is also an historical symbol associated with the likes of spring renewal, fertility, good luck, and even abundance. And it doesn't stop there.

Our big-eared friend is also a German mythological figure who hatched and hid eggs for children and adults to find on Easter Sunday. And oh! how the kiddies love our annual Easter egg hunt here at Lake Whaddayathinkimean Park. Why, this year, Vilma Yucch is hosting the event as a tie-dyed bunny, don'tcha know, with over 500 eggs hidden in the playground for the wee ones to find and keep.

Yes, there is a silver lining after long grey days came our way. So, dust off your sunglasses, air out your cardigans, and have a hoppy time. (Oh! I did it again.)

Maybelle's Fireside Stories is written by Jerelyn Craden. "Maybelle's Cure for What Ails You," 21 of Maybelle's best short stories is now available at www.amazon.com.

Snow Shuffle success

community news

west guilford

Eleanor Cooper
754-2278

Blame it on my poor script. I'm sorry that the name of Bob Barry's wife came out as Marg instead of Mary. Any Guilfordite will have immediately mentally made the correction. Should you notice in future any obvious errors, please call me at 705-754-2278, so I can back-track and apologize.

Feb. 24, 2024 saw the 44th Snow Shuffle begun and ended at the Guilford Centre. While the weather and trail conditions were not ideal there were still 130 participants for this popular event. Along the route a barbecue was set up to fortify the snowmobilers and at the end dinner was provided and served by the volunteer social committee. Enjoyment was complete with the dance DJed by Sassy Sandra. Many thanks to all who helped make it a success.

Bingo!
Russell Red Records owner Dan Manley holds up the access code for music bingo held at Hook, Line, and Sinker on Fridays. /THOMAS SMITH Staff

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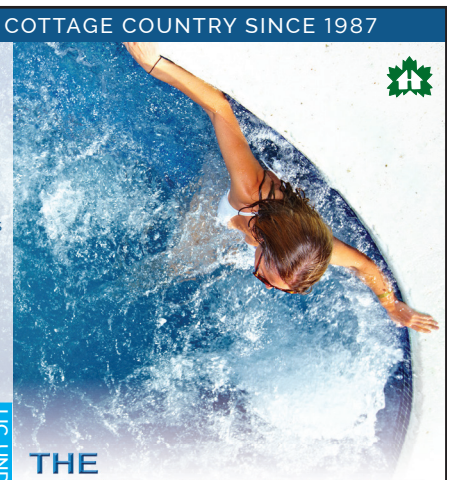

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Employment Opportunity
Municipality of Dysart et al

Full Time Equipment Operator

Reporting to the Operations Manager, the successful applicants will have sound knowledge of the methods, tools and equipment required for the general maintenance of the municipal road system including bridges, culverts, drainage, and other road/property. Primary duties include, but not limited to operation of a sidewalk plow, dump truck (with sander/snow plow), backhoe, loader and grader.

Self-motivated applicants must be able to work outdoors in all weather with minimal supervision. A valid Ontario Class 'A' or 'D' licence (manual) with 'Z' endorsement is required along with an acceptable abstract. Pursuant to CUPE Local #2142 the rate of pay is $27.77 per hour based on a 40-hour work week. Pension and Benefits after a 6-month probationary period.

A detailed job description is on our website at www.dysartetal.ca/careers

Interested individuals are invited to email a detailed resume and cover letter to:

Sonja Marx, HR Manager: hr@dysartetal.ca

Closing date is 12:00pm on March 20th, 2024

** We thank all who apply; however only those selected for an interview will be contacted. **

Employment Opportunity
Municipality of Dysart et al

Roads Department Seasonal Employees

Reporting to the Operations Manager, the successful applicants will have sound knowledge of the methods, tools and equipment required for the general maintenance of roads during summer months. Primary duties include, but are not limited to, traffic control, pothole patching and spray patching. Previous road maintenance and/or construction experience is considered an asset.

Self-motivated applicants must be able to work outdoors with minimal supervision.
A valid Ontario Class 'DZ' licence is required along with an acceptable abstract. A Criminal Reference Check will be required. Pursuant to CUPE Local #2142 the rate of pay is $24.51 per hour based on a 40-hour work week.

A detailed job description is on our website at www.dysartetal.ca

Interested individuals are invited to email a detailed resume and cover letter to:
Sonja Marx, HR Manager
hr@dysartetal.ca

No Later Than 12:00 pm Wednesday, March 20th, 2024.

*** We thank all who apply; however only those selected for an interview will be contacted.***

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March 20 - Highland Hills United Church. **Services at noon,** followed by Soup Lunch, by donation.

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INSIDE THIS WEEK:

SPOT THE SHOT
You know that summer's over when County Life's contest comes to a close

911 AT THE GATE
County works out how to number properties on gated roads and with water access

OUT OF AFRICA
Rick and Nada Vaughan describe efforts to help poor villagers in South Africa

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HALIBURTON COUNTY

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Tuesday, March 11, 2003
Vol. 120 No .13
$1 including GST

DARREN LUM/Echo

Highlands high
Given how much snow there is, Sir Sam's Ski Area will be a busy place this March Break, which got off to an exciting start on Saturday with a snowboarding competition. Results are in this week's sports section.

121 proposal hopes to lure major retailers to Haliburton

SHERYL LOUCKS
Staff Reporter

Haliburton village's newest proposed commercial development, a retail plaza on Highway 121 near Country Rose, is not going to be a box store like Walmart, but developer Philip Otis remained vague at a recent public meeting about what the approximately $10-million development will be.

Even the amount is vague. Otis has submitted to council a draft of what a parking lot and a 64,000 square foot, three-unit building might look like, and could cost up to $10 million to build, but he also made it clear that the development may be considerably smaller or consist of smaller units rather than three large ones.

Otis and his brother Brian are partners in Otis Group of Companies based in Toronto. He says they have done developments in Barry, Huntsville, Bracebridge and are working on a large project in Gravenhurst. At a public meeting on March 3, he told a crowd of approximately 40 people packed into Dysart's council chambers that Otis Group has won design awards for their efforts to create buildings that fit "seamlessly" into the surrounding town. In this case the nine and half acres the Otis Group plans on purchasing, conditional to the approval of rezoning from residential to commercial, is in an established residential area across from Grass Lake.

He says that creating retail/commercial space along 121 will not hurt the downtown as some people at the meeting suggested

See **Developer** *page 6*

Echo editor among local Jubilee Medal recipients

SHERYL LOUCKS
Staff Reporter

The blush went to the roots of her hair as Martha Perkins, managing editor of the *Haliburton County Echo* and the *Minden Times*, accepted a Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal from MPP Chris Hodgson.

Only 46,000 medals have been awarded to Canadians in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of Queen Elizabeth's reign. The medals are given to those who make significant contributions to their community, volunteer tirelessly or have honourably represented Canada.

In a ceremony in Lindsay last month, four individuals from Haliburton County received the medal: Hilda Clark, Perkins, Margaret Risk and Len Salvatori.

Last year, Perkins edited stories about locals receiving the medal and yet, when it came her turn to sit quietly with her hands in her lap instead of

See **Recipients** *page 4*

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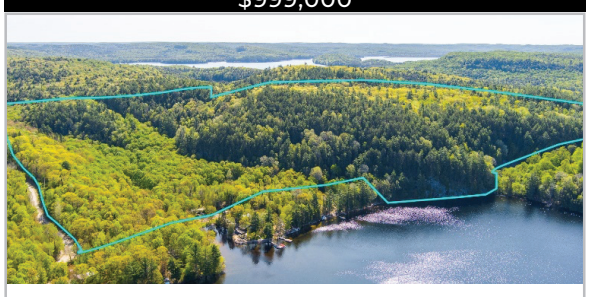

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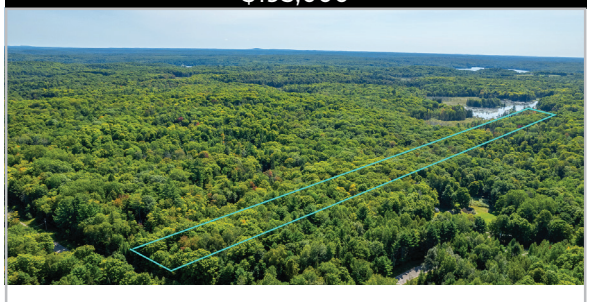

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